GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1240
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
CO OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS WITH FRANCE
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India and France have signed an agreement to co-operate in the field of telecommunications;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the time by when action is likely to be initiated in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on mutual cooperation on telecommunications between the Ministry of Communications, Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Industry, Government of the Republic of France, on January 21, 1998. Both sides agreed to exchange information and experts on systems of telecommunications and cooperate in the fields of:

(i) Regulation;

(ii) Network and Services;

(iii) Research and Development;

(iv) Frequency Spectrum Management; and

(v) Any other field as may be agreed from time-to-time

(c) Considering the various areas of cooperation, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was formed in October, 1998 under the framework of the MOU signed. The Joint Working Group is meeting regularly.